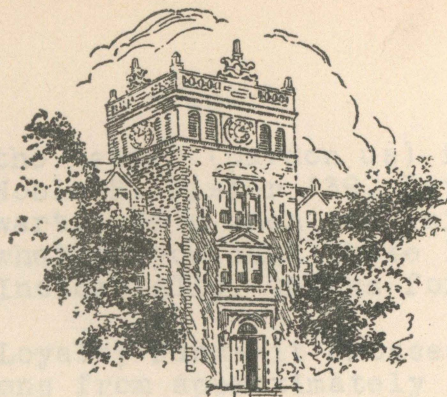


To the
FRONT



from

MUHLENBERG

June 10, 1944
Number 37

Greetings:

Don't be fooled by the new letterhead. This is still your letter from the Alumni Office and (so help us John Peter Gabriel) it will keep coming to you until Fred Dry, Carl Ritter, Bob Holben, Jim Brown, and the rest of you fellows who may have been in on Tuesday's invasion, march into Berlin to tweak Adolph's muzzy and until Moran and Garrettson and Farrell and Albee help batter down Tokyo's walls once and for all.

Around this office we think of you fellows a good bit of the time. But we've been thinking of you particularly since last Sunday when we had mental pictures of Fred Dry and Ralph Harwick and Dan Petruzzi and a few more of you marching into Rome. Early Tuesday morning, when the first flash of the invasion hit the teletype, we conjured up some more pictures of the forty or more Muhlenberg men we know have been on the alert in England and Ireland.

We went to chapel Tuesday morning (by we, I mean practically all of us here on the campus, including the men in the Naval unit) and there we thought of you fellows on the invasion front and of the rest of you who are preparing to go. The service was short, but I can assure you it was very much to the point. We hope you could feel and that you always will feel that we were and are very much in back of you.

We're reading all the dispatches from the invasion front--and from the other fronts too--with more than the usual interest and we're waiting for your own dispatches.

Incidentally, Elsie (Friday to you) got a bright idea the other day, prompted by Tuss Becker '42 and William Richards '44. Richards sent us a pound note from England and Becker, in addition to a generous contribution to the Loyalty Fund, forwarded a Rupee from India. Friday, usually three jumps ahead of me, thought it would be a swell idea for the College to make a collection of the kind of money you fellows are using around the world--in small denominations, of course. If you will cooperate by sending us small denomination pieces of the currency of the lands you hit on your travels and of invasion money, we'll arrange quite a display for it in the Library. If you think it's a good idea, we'd appreciate your help. We'll make the collection and the display permanent. Just keep it in SMALL denominations because we don't want to use it for anything but display. We're not passing the plate, just passing on an idea.

A group of President Tyson's friends announced the other day that they had commissioned Leonebel Jacobs, one of America's most distinguished portrait painters, to do a portrait of the boss to be hung in the reception room of the chapel. The portrait has been in process for the past few months but the whole thing has been kept very secret. It will be unveiled Sunday afternoon, June 18, just a week before commencement and two weeks before Dr. Tyson begins the eighth year of his outstanding work in directing Muhlenberg.

Incidentally, commencement plans still stand: Sunday, June 25 at 3:30 p.m. We'd certainly like to see any of you fellows who may be able to get around. We'll also be looking for some of you at the Allentown Alumni Club's stag party on Friday night, June 23. And we'll be waiting for all of you when we have our next big Alumni Reunion--the Victory Reunion when you are all back home once again.

This paragraph of the letter (pardon us) is directed personally to my kid brother, T/Sgt. Noble B. Fister '39, late of Greenland and Camp Rucker, now at Camp Stewart. He's been complaining that I haven't been writing to him. Well, what do you call these letters, or don't you get them every two weeks? Incidentally, thanks for your Loyalty Fund check.

Talking about the Loyalty Fund--it crossed the \$4,000 mark this morning with contributions from approximately 500 alumni. The report as of last Saturday is enclosed. Thanks again to all of you fellows in the service. Your support is appreciated.

Those of you who had connections with Cedar Crest (and who didn't) may be interested to know that our sister college now has been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The gals are very proud of that and, as a long-time member of the Association, we're glad to welcome them into the ranks.

We're not trying to duck the report on the baseball games and the other spring sports events of the past two weeks, much as it annoys us to have to make this kind of a report. There have been four baseball games since we wrote to you the last time and Muhlenberg managed to lose all of them. We lost to Penn State 2 to 0 at home and 3 to 0 at State. Bucknell took us into tow 7 to 6 and Princeton scored a 3 to 1 victory. That gives us a season record of six wins and six losses with three more games to go--Villanova in Allentown this afternoon, Bucknell here on June 13, and Ursinus in Allentown in June 15. When we write to you the next time, we'll be able to give you a complete season report.

The tennis team came through the other day, defeating Lehigh (now's the time to cheer) 5 to 4, but then lost to Bucknell 6 to 3.

The track season closed with a triangular meet in which Villanova ran away from Muhlenberg and Lehigh, winning 10 first places, tying for another and scoring $85\frac{1}{2}$ points. Muhlenberg scored 36 points and Lehigh amassed (or is that the wrong word) a total of $5\frac{1}{2}$.

Before we forget about it, the student body is sponsoring the usual graduation ball, to be held Friday night, June 23, at Castle Garden, Dorney Park. Any of you fellows back in the area can assure yourself of a good time by coming. Tell your date to wear a long dress and you wear your uniform. The tickets are \$1.65 per couple.

Ensign Richard M. Holben '44 came back the other day to marry Jeanette M. Choma of Bethlehem. Dick has completed his training in the U.S. Naval Supply School at Harvard and is reporting to a new base for assignment. While we are talking about vital statistics and additions to the Muhlenberg family, we shouldn't forget to tell you that Major and Mrs. Frederick G. Schonenberg '39 became the parents of a son on May 29th. Fred is now stationed at Greenville, Miss.

Through the always reliable Morning Call (plug) we discovered that Captain Morton Silverman '34 has been appointed chief of medical service at the 200 bed Station Hospital at Charleston, S.C. Previously he was head of the research laboratories and at the dispensary at the air base.

Lieutenant John Dry '39, who when we last heard from him was on the road to Rome, says he was lucky enough to spend a week with the Air Corps in an exchange of pilot and ground force personnel. He went on several bombing missions in support of the beachhead at Anzio and, after his experiences with flak and bombs on the ground, enjoyed being at the other end of the line. Right now he says he is working on a thesis entitled "How to Avoid Receiving the Purple Heart" with emphasis on post-humous awards. He is still waiting to hear from Gordon Williams '39.

One of those reunions we now are hearing about quite frequently took place in Naples sometime ago when Ensign Jim Hemstreet '44 met Ensign Denny Beattie '43 and Lieutenant Paul Kemmerer '42. Hemstreet says that one morning while he was sitting on the docks of Naples waiting for his ship to come in, Beattie popped out of an LCT moored just below where Hemstreet was seated. Both are attached to the same flotilla

and they expect to see quite a bit of each other. He met Kemmerer while tearing through the streets of Naples. The two men recognized each other when trucks in which they were riding passed. The result was a three-way bull session on Beattie's LCT docked amid the scenic beauties of Mt. Vesuvius. Later, at a Red Cross officers' club, he met Hugh Brown '42.

Lieutenant (j.g.) Ray Turner '42 hasn't run into any Muhlenberg men on the high seas but he is keeping a weathered eye cocked for them. Ray's letter, from somewhere at sea in the Pacific, says he has been in the hot spots for quite sometime and he emphasizes that he is not talking about the weather. Good old Wilmer Cressman '42 crashes through again with the information that he ran across Lieutenant (j.g.) Henry Wacker '42 who is communications officer of a destroyer. Over a few drinks in the nearest officers' club, Cressman learned that Wacker has a few stories of his own to tell when censorship is lifted. Cressman came through with the very good suggestion that we should start planning to publish the war stories of Muhlenberg men around the world when they are able to tell them. We think that's a good idea too and hope you fellows will produce. You're the only ones who can tell them.

Ensign Jack Clifford '43 and Ensign Chuck Moran of the same class are still together with the PT Navy somewhere in the South Pacific. Both of them, according to Clifford, have had the unpleasant feeling of being targets for the Nips and know how it feels to have hot lead coming in their direction.

Lieutenant Robert Albee '42 is still with the Marines in an unmentionable place in the tropics and since the censorship ban has been lifted, has written something about his experiences in New Zealand and Australia. In Auckland he found the city beautiful, the people friendly, the souvenirs expensive, and the girls and the Scotch very interesting. On a recent movement, he met Ensign Paul Arner '43.

Robert Gevert '44, who has a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address has been a belly robber for two years and now has the rank and title of Chief Cook. He's planning to come back to Muhlenberg to continue his pre-ministerial work after the war has been won, if not sooner. Lt. Col. Frank M. Brown '19 is enjoying the romantic scenery in Italy. We don't know where Lieutenant (j.g.) Edward Robertson '42 is located, but he reports that the hardships of serving overseas have been minimized to the extent that it is now comparable to stateside duty. The cuisine is excellent, the quarters comfortable, and the working hours well regulated. Contrary to reports from other sectors, there is an abundance of American whiskey, but Robertson says he'd settle any day for a quart of milk.

Waiting for his ship in San Francisco, Lieutenant James A. Kilpatrick '33 met Paul Marzolf '34 and his wife, back in the states with duty at the Navy Receiving Station at Treasure Island. In Honolulu the other day, Lieutenant Leonard C. Hodgkinson '36 looked under the letter "M" in the University Register in an Army officers' club and found several Muhlenberg men listed. None of the names were familiar to him. If any of you fellows find names like that listed in officers' clubs around the world, shoot them in to us. They may help some Muhlenberg men get together.

Lieutenant Sam Shimer '33, with a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address, says it's a source of great satisfaction to know that Muhlenberg is doing a fine job in training men for the service. The only man Lieutenant Roger Jamieson '42 of the Marines has met on "the little hunk of alleged paradise" in the Pacific is Chuck Burrell '43. He says that the fact that Burrell was glad to see him should indicate how hard put those men are for a familiar face, however ugly it may be.

Ensign George Sweda '43, also at sea out of San Francisco, is still looking for a Muhlenberg man and is still playing basketball. M/Sgt. Emerson Snyder '38 was in Corsica when he wrote to us on April 23. He has been overseas for eighteen months and is among the others praying

for a short war and a speedy return to the USA. Here's another reunion note: Ensign Fritz Raker '40 bumped into Lieutenant (j.g.) Bob Lorish '41 in the Pacific area a few weeks ago and not ten minutes later, ran across Lieutenant Sam Shimer '33. Several days later, while on the beach, he met Lieutenant (j.g.) Wilmer Cressman '42.

Lieutenant John W. Schmitthenner, according to an Army press release that came in the other day, is a bombardier on an AAF B-17 Flying Fortress and is stationed in Italy. He has been overseas since March 7. Lieutenant Jack Hartman '24 thinks he recognizes the names of sons of some of his classmates when he reads these letters. He has a San Francisco APO address which proves definitely that he's not one of the old-timers, which is the way he signed his letter.

Down at the Navy's school for Chaplains at Williamsburg, Va., Chaplain Arnold Spohn '39 is enjoying the company of two other Muhlenberg men, Chaplains John Stump '37 and Ralph Sell '28. Win Kistler '34, whose name has just been placed on our Navy list, reports by mail that Bill Horine '33 is in wonderful physical condition (when wasn't he?) and is conditioning new recruits for the Navy at Bainbridge. After 14 months of military police work, two months of escort guard duty, and ten months of specialized training at Harvard, Private First Class John Harayda '43 has landed in the medical corps at Camp Barkeley, Texas. The boy always did get around, even when he was a student of mine during my one (and only) venture at teaching journalism.

If any of you fellows get up around Boston, Lieutenant (j.g.) Fred Gehr '32 would be more than glad to sit down and have a good Muhlenberg bull session with you. You can find him at Headquarters of the First Naval District where he has been stationed for the past year. And talking about dropping in, you know how glad George Howatt '40 would be to see any Muhlenberg man down at Camp Peary, Va. He's a boot there and finds everything in good shape, even down to being able to get enough vegetables to substitute for meats. He misses, however, his customary daily indulgence in a half-peck of crisp, fresh apples.

Tippy Johnson '31 is back again with the suggestion that we poll "the learned faculty to discover exactly what it is we're fighting for." He doesn't want his answer from a Nash-Kelvinator ad. He swears he's not kidding when he says his only contribution to victory (at Fort Jackson, S.C.) has been a few horrible days of K.P. duty and almost daily mopping of barracks.

Here are the promotions we've noted during the past two weeks: LIEUTENANT (J.G.) Edward H. Robertson '42; LIEUTENANT (J.G.) J. Frederick Gehr '32; LIEUTENANT John W. Schmitthenner '42; ENSIGN William Kuzmiak '42; ENSIGN George Lieberman '46; ENSIGN Boyd H. Walker '43; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Arlin E. Bubeck '44; LIEUTENANT (J.G.) Lester C. Wolfe '35; LIEUTENANT (J.G.) Charles Feist '44; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Alfred E. Pierce '42; CAPTAIN Wilmer F. Fur an '43; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Leonard Wetherhold '43; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Anthony J. Zuzzio '40; LIEUTENANT (J.G.) George Fox '44; LIEUTENANT John Billman '31; SEAMAN SECOND CLASS Wayne E. Holben '44; LIEUTENANT L. Perry Scott '41; LIEUTENANT Allan Maki '44; SERGEANT Samuel G. Mellner '40; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Robert Rimmel '46; SECOND LIEUTENANT David Barbieri '44; LIEUTENANT Anthony Anecchiarico '44; and SERGEANT Nathan Kline '46.

These are the new names that have been added to the service roster during the past two weeks: Donald C. Laubenstein '44; Harold E. Fulton '46; Edward K. Beemer '35; Pvt. James C. Reber '43; Lieutenant Edward F. Judt '33; Frank F. Yost '40; William C. Horine '33; and Ensign Ray H. Ahlum '39. We'll give you their addresses in the next letter.

Elsie tells me she's to the bottom of the stencil and that all I can say is continued good luck to all of you wherever you are. Let's hear from you.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office